

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 1, 2008. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11 and 12 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claims 11 and 12 have been added and claims 6 and 10 have been canceled. Claims 2-5, 8 and 9 have been withdrawn from consideration. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

The Abstract was objected to because of a formal matter. The Abstract has been replaced with a new Abstract attending to the formality noted in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to because of various formal matters. The specification and drawings have been corrected to attend to the formalities noted. In particular, the specification has been amended to delete reference to elements 1 and 5. Figure 1 has been amended to include a reference line for element "9B". Attached is a marked up copy of Figure 1 showing the changes being made as well as a clean replacement copy incorporating the noted change. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 were objected to because of formal matters. The claims have been reviewed and amended to attend to these formalities. Withdrawal of the objections to claims 1 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by WO 00/02715 to Newell et al. Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 relates to a machine for slitting plane packaging blanks comprising

a driving roller assembly for advancing said packaging blanks and at least one rotatable slitting roller with at least one knife for producing a front edge slit and/or a rear edge slit in each packaging blank. A back-pressure roller is provided below the slitting roller, the back-pressure roller including two relatively thin, circular disks interspaced a distance corresponding to the thickness of the knife, the knife extending a distance into the space between the two circular disks.

According to an embodiment of the present disclosure, the knife extends a distance into the space between the two circular disks (e.g., see Figures 1, 2 and 4) and the circular disks make the edges of the front and rear edge slits particularly sharp (page 7, lines 7 and 8.)

Newell et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to an independently driven slotter unit. A female slotter head includes two female slotter knives spaced marginally wider than the thickness of an opposing male blade (page 14, lines 26-31.) However, as shown in Newell et al., the prior art (Figures 2(a) and 2(b)) and the remaining disclosure of Newell et al., disclose that the knife (Newell et al.'s male blade) does not extend a distance into the space between the two circular disks (Newell et al.'s two female slotter knives).

Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art where a back-pressure roller is provided below the slitting roller, the backpressure roller including two relatively thin, circular disks interspaced a distance corresponding to the thickness of the knife, the knife extending a distance into the space between the two circular disks, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No.

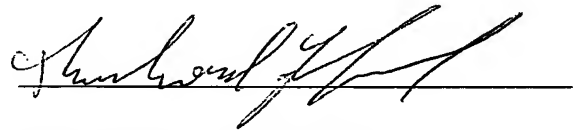
03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard F. Jaworski', is written over a horizontal line.

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING
CHANGES

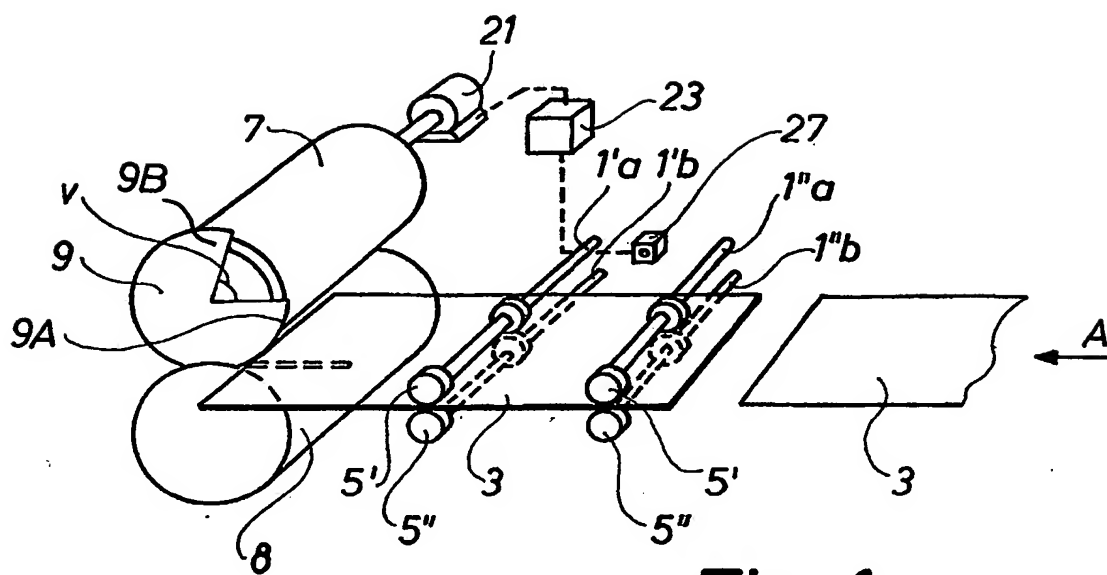


Fig. 1

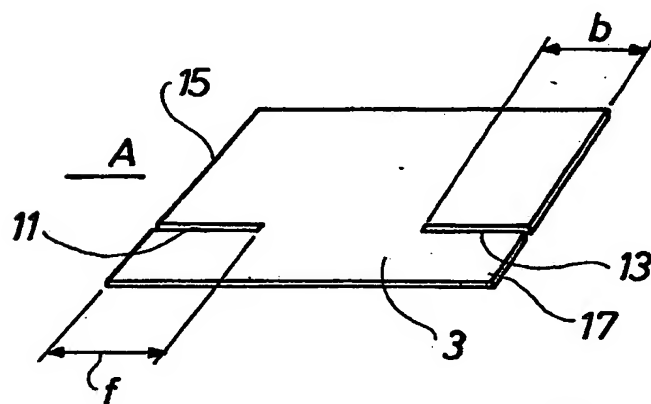


Fig. 5